(b) to (d) Representations have been received from the Govt. of Kerala for increasing the bound rate of import duty on Natural Rubber (NR). At present, NR is classified under industrial products and the WTO Bound Rate of Duty is 25% which is also the current import duty. Under the ongoing negotiations with WTO, the Government have already filed its negotiating proposals for including NR in the rationalisation of product coverage in the Agreement on Agriculture so that the bound rate of duty on NR can be enhanced from the existing level of 25%. However, on natural rubber latex, whether or not prevulcanised, which is not bound under the WTO, the basic customs duty has been increased from 35% to 70% with effect from 01.03.2002.

Working of National Library, Kolkata

*228. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "Make India a nation that reads", which appeared in Hindustan Times of 8th January, 2002;

(b) whether Government have since decided to appoint a committee to examine the working of the National Library, Kolkata and to make the Library movement successful all over the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the help from private entrepreneurs would be sought to make the movement successful?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) No formal committee has been set up. On January 5, 2002, a National Round Table was organised to discuss the prevailing state of affairs in the National and Public Libraries and to consider ways and means of reforming, reorganising and modernising the Libraries in the country and also to infuse new life in the library movement. A few other groups were constituted as a result of the deliberations in the said National Meet to look into various aspects of

the problem. No help was sought from the private entrepreneurs. However, it was decided to request the Members of Parliament to set apart Rs. 15-20 lakh for Public Libraries in their constituencies out of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development fund (MPLAD) of Rs. 2 crore.

Indo-Nepal joint water projects

†*229. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal are working jointly to construct water projects on certain rivers;

(b) if so, the names of the rivers about which decision has been taken alongwith the names of projects to be constructed on the said rivers; and

(c) the present status of the construction with regard to each of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) The following river valley projects on the rivers emanating from Nepal are under discussions between Government of India and Nepal.

(i) Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on river Mahakali (Sarda in India).
(ii) Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project & Sun Kosi Storage cum Diversion Scheme on river Kosi.
(iii) Kamla Multipurpose Project on river Kamla.
(iv) Bagmati Multipurpose Project on river Bagmati.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is already under preparation jointly by India and Nepal. In respect of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage Cum Diversion Scheme the Inception Report has been

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.